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UNCLAS ROME 002498

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PM/DTCC - BLUE LANTERN COORDINATOR (T. WATKINS);  
EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KOMC ETTC IT ECON AVIATION BLUE LANTERN EXPORT CONTROLS

SUBJECT: ROME RESPONSE: BLUE LANTERN LEVEL 3: 05-969702

PRE-LICENSE END USE CHECK

REF: STATE 132080

¶1. This is a response to reftel, and conveys pre-license information on application number 05-969702, regarding the export of CH-47 Chinook spare parts from Lee Air Company, Inc. to Italian consignee Aermecanica.

¶2. We confirmed Aermecanica's order by telephone with co-owner Aldo Pinza. Mr. Pinza subsequently followed up our call with a faxed declaration regarding his company's order of one P/N 68-11926 shaft to be used in a parts replacement with motor and fan P/N 114HS106-15. The replacement part was to be shipped to Agusta S.p.A., for use in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter repair for the Italian Army. We subsequently confirmed with Agusta employee Loredana Medici the company's purchase order with Aermecanica, and the Italian Army Aviation Command in Viterbo (CH-47 helicopter fleet headquarters) as the end user.

¶3. Embassy's Office of Defense Coordination is not familiar with Aermecanica, but commented the transaction appears credible based on experience with Agusta. Agusta built and maintains the now discontinued CH-47 model C fleet of Italian Army helicopters, which includes craft deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Agusta routinely requires replacement parts for this aging fleet.

¶4. Aermecanica is an Italian firm located in Varese (northern Italy), owned and operated by brothers Aldo and Sergio Pinza. The company's 20 employees provide component repairs and parts replacement for military and civilian aircraft, including helicopters. Aermecanica's main client is Agusta, but it also serves other, mostly Italian, firms. We were not able to confirm whether or not Aermecanica has any ties to embargoed parties. Note Aermecanica's complete and correct address is: Aermecanica S.r.l., Via Monte Grappa N. 2, 21015 Lonate Pozzolo (Varese), Italy.

¶5. Based on the thorough and open nature of Aermecanica's disclosure, Embassy believes the finding is satisfactory. Please advise if any further post action or follow-up is required.

KILNER

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2005ROME02498 - Classification: UNCLASSIFIED